Exhibit 15 to the Request for Inter Partes Re-examination of

In re Patent No: 6,351,205

Issued: February 26, 2002

Applicant: Brad A. Armstrong

Title: Variable-Conductance Sensor

公開実用 昭和53— 128861





実 用 新 案 登 舞 耳

13,000PE) T

昭和52年 3 月23日

特許庁長官 片山 石 郎 殿

1. 考案の名称 製作スイッチ機構

3. 突用新案登録出願人

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(日か1名)

- 1. 考案の名称
 - 感圧スイツチ機構
- 2. 実用新案登録請求の範囲
 - (1) スイッチ案子として感圧抵抗体を用いて成るスイッチ本体と、一定圧力で反転するスプリングを介して上記 駅圧抵抗体を押圧し、かつスプリングが反 転した時に少なくとも感圧抵抗体が導通状態となる様に構成したことを特徴とする感圧スイッチ機構。
 - (2) 上記スプリングを、反転時の圧力が異なる スプリングに交換可能に備えたことを特徴と する実用新案登録請求の範囲第(1)項に記載し た惑圧スイッチ機構。
- 3. 考案の詳細な説明

本考案は感圧抵抗体をスイッチ業子として使用した感圧スイッチ機構に関する。さらに詳しくは、必圧抵抗体と一定圧力で反転するスプリングを介して感圧

公開実用 昭和53-128861

抵抗体を押圧する様にした感圧スイッチ機構に 関する。

従来、スイッチ構造としては金属接点とパネの組み合わせから構成されているものが一般的であるが、これは鞭返し使用しているうちに、例えば最点間の火花放電による接点の劣化、または振動、衝撃に伴なう接点部のガタッキなどにより作動不良、あるいは興動作等のトラブルを起こすことが少なくなかつた。

この様な従来の機械的スイッチに対し、近年 感圧抵抗体を利用したスイッチが用いられる様 になつてきた。この感圧抵抗体を利用したスイッチは、従来の機械的スイッチの欠点を解析す るものであり、金嶌接点を有しないので火花放 電影に伴なら作動不良あるいは誤動作もなく、 経年変化が少ないという特徴を有している。

えば手でスイッチを押圧してオン・オフ作動を 行なわせる場合、どの程度押圧すればオン状態 になるのかがはつきりせず、スイッチのオン・ オフ作動を確実に感知することが困難であった。 さらに、スイッチのオン・オフ作動圧力を変更 する場合、所望の感圧力を有する感圧抵抗体を 用意し、その感圧抵抗体に取り換えなければな ちなかつた。

公開実用 昭和53-128861

圧スイツチ機構にある。

以下、図面に示す実施例を参照しながら本考案を詳細に説明する。

感圧抵抗体とは、ゴムまたは合成樹脂たとえばシリコンゴム、SBR、NBR、EPDM、IR、アクリルゴムのような弾性絶縁体中に金銭粒子あるいは導電性カーボンなどの導電性粒子を体積分率で5~50が程度分散混合したものである。

第1図は本考案に係る感圧スイッチ機構に使用する感圧抵抗体の印加圧力に対する体積固有抵抗値の変化と、これに対応した感圧抵抗体の圧縮率との関係を示したものである。本考案は、同図にみられる様に、抵抗が無加圧状態において10⁴Ω-σκ以上であり、かつ加圧した場合10³Ω-σκ以下になるような感圧抵抗体をスイッチ素子として使用するものである。

第2図は本考案におけるスイツチ本体の一例

. を示すものであり、その構造は、先に本出職人 が提案したもの(実顧昭 51-113897 号)と同一 である。図において、1は悪圧抵抗体、2は加 圧板、 3a,3b は電磁板、 4 は非導電性部材、 5 は電極仕切板、 6 は支持体、6a はストッパー・ 7a,7bはリード線である。即ち、級圧抵抗体1 の上面には加圧板2を配設し、下面には2枚の 電框板 3a,3b を配設し、周囲には単性を有する 非導電性部材 4 を配設してある。上記電極板3a. 3bはその間に配置された絶縁性の電極仕切板 5 によつて互いに絶録されている。 電極板 3a,3b の下側には支持体6を配置し、この支持体6の 周級部には上方の加圧板2人に向かつて突出した。 ストッパー6aを形成してある。ストッパー6aの 上端と加圧板2との間には所定間隔8を設けて あり、加圧板2が押圧され距離8だけ押し下げ られるとストッパーfaに当接する様にしてある。 义、上記電極板 3a.3b にはそれぞれリード線7a. 70を接続してある。

とのスイッチ本体は、加圧板 2 化圧力を印加

公開実用 昭和53-128861

して感圧抵抗体 1 を圧縮すると、感圧抵抗体 1 の電気抵抗が減少し、リード線 7a - 電磁板 3a - 底圧抵抗体 1 - 電極板 3b - リード線 7b と回路が 形成されて導通状態となる。そして、さらに圧 力を印加すると加圧板 2 はストッパー 6a に当姿 し、感圧抵抗体 5 の受ける圧縮変形量が制御さ れ、過剰の圧縮が防止される。

第3図は、第2図に示したスイッテ本体を使用した本考案に係る感圧スイッチ機構を示す断 面積念図である。

本恩圧スイツチ機構は、図に示す様に、ケー

使つて、指または他の押圧手段によつてゴムシートあるいはダイヤフラム13を押すと加圧力がスプリング12に加わつてスプリング12に固定されたからでは、この反転によりスプリング12に固定された加圧権11が加圧権の下方に配置されたスペッチ本体の加圧板2を押圧し、感圧抵抗体1が導通状態となり、リード線7a,7bが導通状態となる。即ち、本感圧スイッチ機構はスプリングの

公開実用 昭和53-128861

反転に要する所定の圧力で作動する。

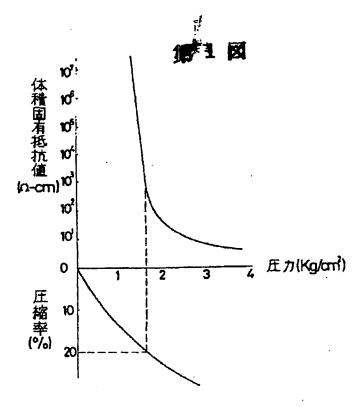
第4図は本思圧スイッチ機構に使用したスプ リングの圧力 - 歪み特性と、この特性に基づく スイッチの作動状態を示するのである。即 カイッチの企力を正力の上昇と共に増加 大変の上力を変更した際反転を起こした。 時点でスイッチはオフ状態からオン状態とした。 次で上力が減少するにつれて危み量が低下し はこれが強少するに対し、スイッチは オフ状態に戻る。 なお、本考案に係る感圧スイッチ機構は図示した実施例にはれるものではなく、加います。というないではない。そのではない。その変形が可能である。 をおいるないではない。 をおいるないではないがある。 ではない。 をおいるないのではない。 をおいるないのではない。 をいるない。 をいるないのであればいる。 をいるないのであればいる。 をいるないのである。

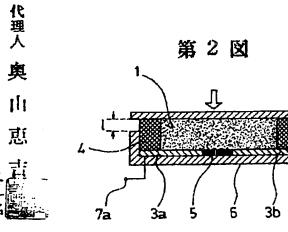
公開実用 昭和53—128861

4. 図面の簡単な説明

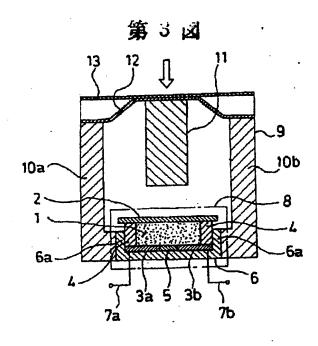
第1図は本考案に係る感圧スイッチ機構に使用する終圧抵抗体の印加圧力に対する体積固有抵抗体の印加圧抵抗体の圧離抗体の圧離がある。 の関係を示すグラフ、第2図は原圧抵抗体の圧縮をのより、第2図は原圧が存むである。 のリナネーとして用いたスイッチ本体の一次を でする。 のはスプリングの圧力・盗み特性とその特性に まつくスイッチの作動状態を示する。

1 … 感圧抵抗体、2 …加圧板、3a,3b …電板板、4 …非導電性部材、5 …電極仕切板、6 … 支持体、6a … ストッパー、7a,7b … リード線、8 … スイッチ本体、9 … ケース、10a,10b … 保持体、11 …加圧器、12 スプリング、13 … ゴムシートあるいはダイヤフラム。





公開実用 昭和53—128861



2/.

1 ...

i^t:



5. 郵附書類の目録

(1) 明 細 書 1通 (2) 図 面 1通 (3) 顧 書 刷 本 1通 (4) 类 任 状 1通

- 6. 前記以外の考案者および代理人

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JAPANESE LAID-OPEN UTILITY MODEL APPLICATION

S53-128861 (1978)

Utility Model Application

March 23, 1977

Ishiro KATAYAMA Commissioner, Japan Patent Office

Title of the Design 1.

Pressure Sensitive Switch Mechanism

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Formal Examination

SPECIFICATION

1. Title of the design

Pressure Sensitive Switch Mechanism

2. Claims

- (1) A pressure sensitive switch mechanism characterized by having a switch main body with a pressure sensitive resistor as a switching element and a spring inverting at a given pressure and so constructing it that the above pressure sensitive resistor is pushed via the above spring and at least the pressure sensitive resistor becomes the conductive state when inverting the spring.
- (2) The pressure sensitive switch mechanism according to Claim 1 characterized by having the above spring that is exchangeable with a spring having a different pressure at the time of inversion.

3. Detailed description of the invention

The present design relates to a pressure sensitive switch mechanism using a pressure sensitive resistor as a switching element. Specifically, the present design relates to a pressure sensitive switch mechanism made such that the pressure sensitive resistor and a spring inverting at a given pressure are combined and the pressure sensitive resistor is pushed via the spring.

Conventional switch structures have generally been constructed from a combination of metal contacts and a spring, but when the switch is repeatedly used, often troubles such as poor operation or malfunction, etc. occur due to aging of contacts caused, for example, by a spark discharge between the contacts or shaking of the contacts accompanied by vibration and impact.

In contrast to such a conventional mechanical switch, a switch using a pressure sensitive resistor has recently come to be increasingly used, eliminating the drawbacks of a conventional mechanical switch, has no problems of spark discharge and aging of contacts because there are no metallic contacts, and there is no poor operation or malfunction accompanied by vibration and impact and fewere secular changes.

However, a general structure of the switch using such a pressure sensitive resistor is a structure in which a pressure sensitive resistor is interposed between two electrode plates,

accordingly, for example, when the switch is pushed by hand to conduct the ON-OFF operation, whether the switch becomes the ON state to any degree is not clear and it was difficult to reliably perceive the ON-OFF operation of the switch. When the ON-OFF operating pressure is changed, a pressure sensitive resistor having a desirable pressure-sensing force must be prepared to replace it by a pressure sensitive resistor.

In view of the above circumstance, the purpose of present design is to provide a pressure sensitive switch mechanism by which a person operating the switch may perceive whether the switch becomes the ON state or the OFF state, i.e. whether the switch reliably operates or not by a click feeling, and the operating pressure of the switch may be changed without replacing the pressure sensitive resistor, and it substantially consists of a pressure sensitive switch mechanism characterized by having a pressure sensitive resistor and a spring inverting at a given pressure, constituting it so that the above pressure sensitive resistor is pushed via the above spring and at least the pressure sensitive resistor becomes the conductive state when inverting the spring.

The present design is described in detail hereafter with reference to in the drawings.

The pressure sensitive resistor is achieved by dispersing and mixing about $5 \sim 50\%$ by volume of conductive particles, such as metallic particles or conductive carbon, etc., in an elastic insulator like rubber or a synthetic resin, such as silicone rubber, SBR, NBR, EPDM, IR, acrylic rubber, etc. and has is characterized by elastically deforming due to impressed pressure to change the electrical resistance or conductivity. As is seen in the same drawings, a pressure sensitive resistor is used as a switching element, the resistance of which is $10^5 \Omega$ -cm or greater in the non-pressure state and $10^3 \Omega$ -cm or below when applying pressure.

Fig. 2 shows an example of a switch body according to the present design, the structure of which is the same as that formerly proposed by the present applicant (UM Appl. S51-113897). In the drawing, 1 is a pressure sensitive resistor, 2 is a pressure plate, 3a, 3b are electrode plates, 4 is a non-conductive member, 5 is an electrode partition plate, 6 is a support, 6a is a stopper, and 7a, 7b are lead wires. Namely, the pressure plate 2 is arranged upside of pressure sensitive resistor 1, the two electrode plates 3a, 3b are arranged downside, and the non-conductive member 4 having elasticity is arranged around them. Electrode plates 3a, 3b are insulated from each other by the insulative electrode partition plate 5 arranged between them. A support 6 is arranged downside of electrode

plates 3a, 3b, with a stopper 6a protruding to the upper pressure plate 2 being formed at the rim of the support 6. A prescribed spacing l is provided between the upper end of stopper 6a and the pressure plate 2. If the pressure plate 2 is pushed down for only a distance l, it makes contact with the stopper 6a. The lead wires 7a, 7b are connected to the above electrode plates 3a, 3b, respectively.

In this switch body, if pressure is impressed on the pressure plate 2 to compress the pressure sensitive resistor 1, the electric resistance of pressure sensitive resistor 1 is reduced, and a lead wire 7a - electrode plate 3a - pressure sensitive resistor 1 - electrode plate 3b - lead wire 7b circuit is formed to become the conductive state. Then, if a pressure is impressed, the pressure plate 2 is in touch with the stopper 6a to control the compressive deformation received by the electrode partition plate 5 and prevent it from excessive compression.

This switch body may prevent the mechanical aging caused by excessive compression because it is provided with a stopper 6a, and it almost has no aging of the electrode plates accompanied by repeated use because the distortion of electrode plates 3a, 3b when applying pressure is reduced by using the mounting positions of the electrode plates 3a, 3b as the bottom surface of the pressure sensitive resistor 1, and also has the features of excellent environment resistance, etc. because the contacts of pressure sensitive resistor 1 and electrode plates 3a, 3b are completely sealed.

Fig. 3 is a sectional conceptual drawing showing the pressure sensitive switch mechanism relating to the present design using the switch body shown in Fig. 2.

In this pressure sensitive switch mechanism, as shown in the drawing, a switch body 8 is arranged in the lower part in a case 9 via holding members 10a, 10b. Switch body 8 is same as the switch body shown in Fig. 2, and attached numbers are also same as Fig. 2. This switch body 8 is so arranged that the pressure plate 2 thereof becomes the upside, above which is arranged a pressure rod 11 is arranged above it. The upper end of pressure rod 11 is fixed to a spring 12 inverting at a given pressure. The shape of spring 12 is invertible and convex relative to the above like a plate spring. A

rubber sheet or diaphragm 13 covering the switch mechanism is arranged immediately on the spring 12.

Accordingly, if the rubber sheet or diaphragm 13 is pushed with a finger or another pushing

means, a pressure force is applied to the spring 12 to invert the spring 12, the pressure rod 11 fixed to the spring 12 by this inversion pushes the pressure plate 2 of switch body 8 arranged below the pressure rod 11, the pressure sensitive resistor 1 becomes the conductive state and the lead wires 7a, 7b become the conductive state. Namely, this pressure sensitive switch mechanism operates at a given pressure needed for the inversion of the spring.

On the other hand, when pressure is applied to the spring 12 to invert the spring 12, a click feeling is generated by the repulsive force, and the person operating the switch may perceive that the switch is reliably operating. The pressure needed for the inversion may be set to a prescribed pressure by using the rubber sheet or diaphragm 13 and selecting the material and shape of spring 12, therefore the ON-OFF operating pressure of switch may be arbitrarily selected without changing the pressure sensitive resistor 1.

Fig. 4 shows the pressure-distortion characteristic of spring used in the pressure sensitive switch mechanism and the operating state of a switch based on this characteristic. Namely, the distortion of the spring increases with a rise of pressure, the inversion is caused when reaching a prescribed pressure P₂, and the switch goes from the OFF state to the ON state at this point in time. Subsequently, the distortion starts to lower with the reduction of pressure, the spring inverts again at some pressure P₁ and the switch returns to the OFF state.

The pressure sensitive switch mechanism relating to the present design is not restricted to the illustrated example. For example, it may be a switch for performing the ON-OFF operation by applying pressure using a pressure sensitive resistor as the switch body, and the switch may also be a shape made invertible at a given pressure using metal, resin or rubber, etc. as the material. Other various modifications of structure are also possible so long as they do not exceed the essence of the present design.

As described above, the pressure sensitive switch mechanism relating to the present design pushes the pressure sensitive resistor via the spring inverting at a given pressure, therefore the spring operates at a prescribed pressure needed for the inversion of spring, and a person operating the switch may reliably perceive the operation of the switch by a click feeling at the time of inverting the spring. The function of pressure detection termination may be discerned from the fact that the pressure required for the inversion may be set to a prescribed pressure by selecting the material and shape of

spring. Accordingly, this pressure sensitive switch mechanism may be applied to a pressure switch, a pressure safety device, etc.

4. Brief description of the drawings

Fig. 1 is a graph showing the relationship between the volume inherent resistance value and the compressiveness of a corresponding pressure sensitive resistor used in a pressure sensitive switch mechanism according to the present design versus the impressed pressure of the pressure sensitive resistor;

Fig. 2 is a sectional conceptual drawing showing an example of a switch body using the pressure sensitive resistor as the switching element;

Fig. 3 is a sectional conceptual drawing showing an example of a pressure sensitive switch mechanism according to the present design, and

Fig. 4 shows the pressure-distortion characteristic of the spring and the operating state of the switch based on this characteristic.

- pressure sensitive resistor
- 1 pressure plate
- 3a, 3b electrode plates
- 4 non-conductive member
- 5 electrode partition plate
- 6 support
- 6a stopper
- 7a, 7b lead wires
- 8 switch body
- 9 case
- 10a, 10b holding members
- 11 pressure rod
- 12 spring
- 13 rubber sheet or diaphragm

5.	List of atta	ched documents	
(1)	Specification	1	
(2)	Drawings	. 1	
(3)	Duplicate of a	application 1	
(4)	Letter of attor	ney 1	
6.	Inventor a	nd agents other than the above	
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	Name	(6006) Attorney Hisao OKUYAMA	

Volume inherent resistance value Pressure (kg/cm²)

[Fig. 1]

Compressibility (%)

	•	
	[Fig. 2]	
	[Fig. 3]	
	[Fig. 4]	
Distortion (Ω-cm)		
	Pressure (kg/cn	n²)
State of circuit (%)		

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION

I Roger P. Lewis, whose address is 42 Bird Street North, Martinsburg WV 25405, declare and state the following:

I am well acquainted with the English and Japanese languages and have in the past translated numerous English/Japanese documents of legal and/or technical content.

I hereby certify that the Japanese translation of the attached translation of documents identified as:

Laid Open Utility Model S53-128861 (1978) "Pressure Sensitive Switch Mechanism"

is to the best of my knowledge and ability true and accurate.

I further declare that all statements contained herein of our own knowledge, are true, that all statements of information and belief are believed to be true.

ROGER P. LEWIS

October 24, 2006